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GREAT INTEREST IN POLITICS NOW

Changed Political Complexion
of the Legislature Causes
Much Speculation.

(By Charles Brooks Smith).

CLARKSBURG, Nov. 12.—Now
that the Democratic party has won
the legislature, it has a free hand to
do whatever it pleases to do. It is
interesting, therefore, to speculate on
what is likely to be done. There are
innumerable facts at hand to make
conjecture reasonable.

That particular piece of business
to be done in which there is the most
public interest is, of course, the elec-
tion of a United States senator to suc-
ceed Senator Nathan Bay Scott. Over
this point there is certain to be a con-
flict with no scarcity of candidates,
receptive and otherwise. There is no
hazard in the prediction that the Chil-
ton and McGraw factions will renew
their feud of many years' standing.
They have something to fight for now.
In their long-drawn-out struggle for
control of the party organization very
few Democratic leaders of any activity
or prominence but have been drawn
into the controversy—taken sides one
way or the other.

In the present line-up, any one at
all conversant with the Democrats
elected to the state senate and House
of Delegates, will be forced to con-
cede that the Chilton faction has far
the best of it. In fact, it looks very
much like the Chilton faction has a
majority of the caucus. It is dead-
certain that with a combination with
Clarence W. Watson, which combination
was formed early in the cam-
paign, the Chilton-Watson co-partner-
ship, has a caucus majority. Counting
it over, they seem to have forty-six
votes between them. Of this num-
ber Watson is credited with controlling
nine. The Democrats will have
seventy-two senators and delegates in
caucus, providing they all go into caucus.
It will, therefore, take thirty-
seven votes to nominate. As it
stands right now, barring any losses,
Chilton and Watson have the required
number. These two men, undoubtedly,
will dictate the election of the new
senator.

Fleming or MacCorkle.

Now, who is the new senator likely
to be? That is a decidedly hard one.
If Clarence W. Watson can have his
way about it, he can fix up terms satis-
factory with the Chilton boys and
MacCorkle. Senator Scott's successor
will be ex-Governor A. Brooks Flem-
ing, of Fairmont, William E. Chilton
no doubt would like to be elected
senator, but whether or not he will
be a candidate remains to be seen.
He could, right at first, at any rate,
get more votes in his party caucus
than any other one man. But there
seems to be a very general belief pre-
valent that neither Chilton nor Mc-
Graw can ever secure the caucus
nomination, although the former
would make a better showing than the
latter, and that Chilton will back
somebody else, taking in return other
concessions and forming new alli-
ances, which would give him a strong-
er grasp on the party organization
than he now has, which, at that is
more of a grasp than his old-time
energy, McGraw has. In that contin-
gency, Chilton's first choice will be
his law partner, ex-Governor W. A.
MacCorkle. He wants it, and would
command the Chilton following and
probably some strength among the in-
dependents, for MacCorkle is pretty
well thought of by his party. But
Clarence Watson's claims are pretty
certain to be considered. Watson, it
was, who carried the brunt of the
financial end of the campaign, and he
furnished the Chiltons with money, as
he did some of the McGraw candi-
dates. Nine of the votes secured in
the landslide are personally under ob-
ligations to Watson. He nominated
them and gave liberally to them for
their election. These votes were the
ones corralled in Marion and nearby
counties, in which the Fairmont Coal
combine has large property interests.

Davis' Election a Bar.

J. W. Davis, congressman-elect in
the First district, has a few warm
personal friends and admirers in both
branches, and will get some votes, no
doubt. If he were not just newly
elected to a decidedly formidable candi-
date. But it is not likely that the
Democrats would take the risk of los-
ing a congressman by electing him
United States Senator. It would be a
risk sure, because it would require a
special election to be held in the First
congressional district. Very many
Democrats regard Davis as their best
and brainiest material. John Corn-
well is highly spoken of, and has some
votes, too. He will be a candidate if
he sees that he has a possible chance.
Then there is John T. McGraw. He
will not surrender an ambition of a
lifetime, and will fight for Scott's seat
to the bitter end. However, unless
there is a break in the combination
they formed in the campaign just
closed, the men agreed upon by the
Chiltons and Watson will be elected
senator. In any event, that man is
pretty sure to be perfectly agreeable
and altogether acceptable to the large
corporate interests of the state. He
will be at heart a conservative, and
whatever elements of radicalism he
may display for effect, will not be
enough to hurt himself or anybody
else. He will be elected by the "in-
terests," by the coal, oil, gas and the
railroads, no matter what surface

signs may indicate otherwise. Unless
they name the man he won't be
named. You can just stick a pin deep
right there.

The Senatorial Tie.

It is unfortunate for the Democratic
party that it hasn't a majority in the
state senate, and it is also, in my opin-
ion, unfortunate for the Republicans
as this is written it stands a tie—13
to 13. If the Democrats had a ma-
jority, that party could go about the
business of reappointing and redistrict-
ing the state with a feeling of seren-
e security from annoyance from the Re-
publican side. They could also very
effectively disfranchise the colored
voters, who they claim have furnished
most of the Republican majorities in
the fourteen years of Republican re-
gime, and who, by the way, many Re-
publicans think have been the source
of most of the corruption with which
their party has been charged. But
with a tie vote, none of these three
things can be done by the Democratic
side—the Republican side of the sen-
ate won't let it be done. The submis-
sion of a prohibition amendment is
going to furnish another one of the
big fights in the upper branch, and
after raising up the personnel of the
next Senate, the wise ones shake their
heads and say there is nothing much
in the membership role to solace the
Prohibition brother. In fact, the con-
sensus of opinion is that the prohibi-
tion amendment will not be submitted.
The delegate branch will most likely
pass it, but by not so large a majority
as heretofore, for the anti-submission
side made very substantial gains in
that branch last Tuesday. Another
piece of legislative business will be a
primary election law, which will origi-
nate on the Democratic side. A Gil-
mer Patton, of this city is one among
several Democrats who has a bill of
that kind ready to plump into the
hopper.

Fisher May Bolt.

With a tie vote in the state senate,
it is interesting to consider the modus
operandi of organizing that body. A
reading of the constitution gives en-
lightenment on this matter. The clerk
of the senate, who is now John T.
Harris, calls it to order, and then calls
to the chair to preside, until a perma-
nent organization shall have been ef-
fected, the oldest member in point of
service. That personage is Senator R.
F. Kidd, of Gilmer county. So, Clerk
Harris will call the senate to order
and then call Senator Kidd to the
chair to preside. And there you are—
what will happen after that nobody
can forecast. With a tie, there could
be only one thing done and that is to
try to effect a compromise agreement—
an understanding—so that the Sen-
ate can effect a permanent organiza-
tion and get down to business. The
Republicans will most assuredly play
for every kind of a concession, and
will get what they want or there will
be nothing doing. That is assuming
that the fifteen Republican senators
stay together without a break, and
they are expected to do this, as the
fifteen Democrats are also. Should some
agreement be made by which the
Democrats get the presidency, who is
he likely to be? If precedent is fol-
lowed, and only holdover and experi-
enced men are considered, Kidd will
be very likely chosen. The other
three Democratic holdovers, who are
Silver, McIntire and Joe Smith,
would hardly be considered in this
connection. Kidd is experienced and
a parliamentarian of ability, and
with the Senate evenly divided, it will
require a man on to the business to
successfully wield the gavel. But
would Senator Jake Fisher vote for
Kidd for president? Fisher is right-
hand-man to McGraw and tried to
beat his colleague, Kidd, for renom-
ination and came mighty near doing
it. How would Fisher vote as re-
gards Kidd? Only Fisher knows.

The presidency of the Senate means
more than presiding with gavel in
hand and Cushing's manual open on
top of the desk. The president of the
Senate, under certain circumstances,
might be the governor of the state.
This fact will be held in mind, too,
when electing a president is being
considered.

Governor Powerless.

There won't be very much for
Governor Glascock to do the balance
of his term, except to patiently wait
the expiration of his term. He hasn't
any chance of putting through any of
the legislation he has so earnestly and

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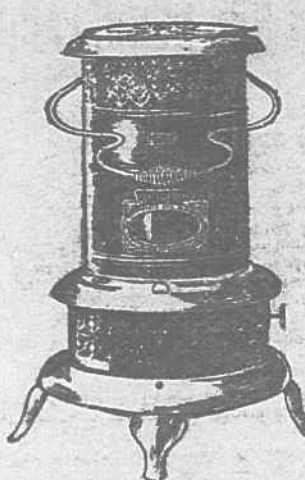


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last legislature was in session. Daw-
son was the governor then, and got

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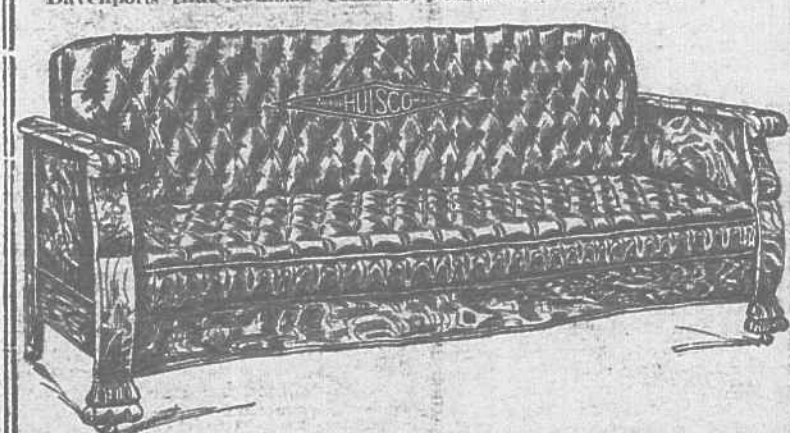
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large shapes, each only.... \$1.00

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girls' 50c to 90c

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for \$1.50

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The Cattle will be sold in the forenoon and Horses
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